

University of Virginia, Pavilion X
East Lawn, University of Virginia
Charlottesville
Virginia

HABS No. VA-193-E

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA - PAVILION X

HABS No. VA-193-E

Location: East Lawn
University of Virginia
Charlottesville
Virginia

Present Owner: The University of Virginia

Present Occupants: Dr. & Mrs. William H. Muller

Present Use: Residence

Statement of Significance: Thomas Jefferson designed Pavilion X as part of one of his most remarkable accomplishments: the creation of a university based on his concept of an academical village. The building is characteristic of Jefferson's brand of Roman classicism which is demonstrated in all his architectural designs and which strongly influenced subsequent southern architecture.

II. BASIC HISTORICAL INFORMATION

- A. Architect: Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826)
- B. Date: Designed 1817-19, completed 1822
- C. Cost: \$ 11,758
- D. Alterations/Additions: Pavilion X was designed and built with an attic parapet which Mr. Jefferson modeled after Palladio's illustration of the Temple of Nerva Trajan.¹ The parapet was removed sometime during the later nineteenth century (ca. 1870-1900)² after continual problems with a leaky roof.³ Several additions were made in the rear of the Pavilion, substantially increasing its size. In 1836 a kitchen was added.⁴ The original kitchen was probably in the basement. In 1857 the kitchen was renovated and enlarged and a porch was added.⁵ After several years of deliberating, the substantial rear addition was made in 1878.⁶ These red brick extensions are compatible with the original structure, although the 1878 portion displays a Victorian bracketed cornice. Two oval windows were added to the stair hall, undoubtedly during the classical revival period of the early twentieth century.⁷
- E. Note on the History: Pavilion X's history is inextricably woven into the history of the University, of Charlottesville and the South, of Mr. Jefferson and of the professors and

their families who have occupied the home. These topics are treated elsewhere and a discussion of the building in this broad context is out of the scope of this project. However, two important events linked with the Pavilion should be mentioned.

The most famous incident was the shooting death of Professor John A. G. Davis on the front steps of the Pavilion by student Joseph E. Semmes on November 12, 1840, during a riot about restrictions imposed at the University. This shocking act led indirectly to the adoption of the Honor Code in 1842, largely due to the effort of Henry St. George Tucker, the next resident of Pavilion X. The theory behind it was that students be held accountable by themselves and their peers for their actions.

A second event is associated with Professor John B. Minor who lived in Pavilion X from 1845-1896. On March 3, 1865, Minor led a group of professors and townspeople to meet General Custer of General Sheridan's Union Army and persuade them not to harm the University buildings or personnel (the University of Alabama had been burned by the Union Army). The University may have been saved by this courageous act.⁸ A related story about Minor was that he supposedly kept a mule in the basement in case he had to flee the Union Army.⁹

III. RESIDENTS OF PAVILION X

Pavilions are assigned according to a hierarchy of departments (the order which the schools appeared on campus) and seniority within a department. A professor may live in a Pavilion for the remainder of his tenure at the University.

Name	School	Year Assigned
DUNGLISON, Robley	Medicine	1822
DAVIS, John A. G.	Law	1833
TUCKER, Henry St. George	Law	1840
MINOR, John B.	Law	1845
LILE, William Minor	Law	1896
BEAN, Robert B.	Anatomy	1933
RIBBLE, Frederick D. G.	Law	1965
YOUNGER, Edward E.	History	1967
MULLER, Dr. William H.	Medicine	1979

IV. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

- A. General Statement: The original portion of Pavilion X is a two story structure with a full basement. Red brick and painted wood trim are the materials. The building measures 43'-6" across the main elevation, 30'-6" along the sides and is 39'-0" high from the ground to the peak of the roof on the main elevation. The front is bilaterally symmetrical. Reflecting the strong colonial tradition of the Georgian floor-plan, the layout of the floors is generally symmetrical, with rooms arranged off a full length central hall. Student dormitory rooms adjoin the Pavilion on the side elevations.
- B. Condition: Excellent
- C. Description of the Exterior:
1. Foundation: The 1'-6" thick foundation is red brick laid in five course American bond. A water table 8'-6" high differentiates the basement level from the main floor but is evident only in the rear.
 2. Wall Construction: Walls are red brick laid in five course American bond. Bricks average 7 3/4" X 3 3/4" X 2 1/2" with 1/4" mortar joints. Exterior walls are 1'-6" thick at the basement level and 1'-2" thick at the upper levels.

3. Structural System: Exterior and interior masonry walls are load bearing. The roof structure is frame.
4. Portico and Cornice: Pavilion X has a two story projecting portico which extends beyond the second story balcony. The portico has a gable roof, and is supported by four 23'-3" high columns. The column bases are 12'-0" from the wall of the central block. The order for the columns and denticulated Doric cornice was modeled after the Roman Theater of Marcellus as illustrated in the 1766 edition of Parallele De L'Architecture Antique Avec La Moderne by Roland Freart de Chambray.¹⁰ The cornice material is wood painted white. In the pediment is a fanlight characteristic of the Federal period. The two story portico with central fanlight was a favorite Jefferson treatment. Of note is the ceiling detail of the portico which features a dogwood motif in the alternating panels of the soffit.
5. Balcony: A 7'-3 1/2" wide balcony extending the full length of the building is a distinguishing feature of the Pavilion. Because the portico projects so far out, the balcony could not be incorporated into it structurally. Floor joists for the balcony were framed into the Pavilion,

but necessary additional support was provided by two iron rods which extend from the floor of the balcony, through the balustrade and into the ceiling and structural system of the portico. This treatment makes the balcony appear to be hanging. The "Chinese" balustrade was another favorite feature of the architectural vocabulary of Mr. Jefferson and the Georgian/Federal period.

6. Chimney: A central chimney rises 5'-6" from the peak of the gable roof of the main block. It is approximately 4'-6" square. This chimney serves all seven fireplaces of the original portion of the Pavilion.
7. Doors: All original exterior doors of Pavilion X are double doors and are located at either end of the central hall. Except for a heavy board and batten door in the basement, these doors have solid lower panels and glazed upper panels (although the glazing may not be original). In proportion and configuration, the doors are similar to those illustrated in The American Builder's Companion, Plate 38, by Asher Benjamin.¹¹ The rear hall door on the main floor, which originally exited to a porch, has a fine fanlight. Molding for the doors is similar to that of the windows, but wider, 9".

8. Windows: Double hung, six over six sash windows are typical for Pavilion X. Overall dimensions of masonry openings are 4'-5" X 7'-4", with 12" X 18" panes (before glazing). Moldings are 6 1/2" wide. All double hung windows have hunged wooden blinds painted black. Blinds measure 1'-8 1/4" X 6'-7". Partially sunken half windows of the main elevation which light the basement are similar in placement, proportion and trim to the double hung windows. Eight double hung windows and four basement lights are arranged symmetrically on the main elevation. Two oval windows on the southwest elevation light the stair hall. These are not original to the Pavilion and were possibly added during the classical revival period.
9. Roof: Pavilion X has a gable roof of a 23 degree pitch. The roof breaks twice near the sides of the building giving it a bellcast shape. This unusual shape may have had some relationship to the old parapet. Slate shingles are the roofing material.

D. Description of the Interior:

1. Floorplans: Plans for all three floors are similar and reflect the Georgian tradition. Rooms are arranged on each side of a central hall. Room widths are similar although lengths vary. Seven out of eight rooms have fireplaces. In the southern corner of the Pavilion the stair hall is located. This circulation zone extends from the basement to the attic.
2. Stairway: The main stair in Pavilion X runs from the first to second floor, making a half turn at a landing midway. the stair rail features Doric column newel posts, rectangular balusters and a rounded handrail. Decorative wood scroll work at the end of each step marks the string area. Tuscan
3. Flooring: Wood floors were used on the upper levels. The wood is probably pine and boards average 5" in width. The basement was originally probably dirt or brick laid in a herringbone pattern similar to that of the basement hall.¹² other basement rooms have modern linoleum flooring.
4. Wall Finish: Walls are plastered throughout the Pavilion.
 - A. Cornice: A 2'-3" molded wood cornice was used throughout the rooms of the

upper floors except the master bedroom (originally a drawing room). Its shape gives the ceiling a coved effect. The basement rooms have no cornice. In the master bedroom is an exquisite denticulated Doric cornice (wood and plaster), a more richly detailed version of the exterior cornice, but again featuring the dogwood motif as well as the acanthus.

B. Chair Rail and Baseboard: On the main floor a molded wood chair rail is 4 1/4" high and measures 2'-8 1/2" from its top to the floor. Baseboards on the main floor are molded wood and measure 9" high. No chair rail was used in the basement or second floor, and only the large basement room has a baseboard, that being a simple wood plank without ornamental millwork.

5. Doors: Typical interior doors measure 3'-3 1/2" X 7'-0". They feature six panels and are similar to Plate 38 in Asher Benjamin's The American Builder's Companion.¹³ Not all doorways have retained their doors. Door surrounds are wood moldings measuring 6 3/4" wide.
6. Windows: Masonry openings for interior windows measure 5'-0" X 9'-8" with 7 1/2" wide molded wood trim. Paneled jambs and

lower spandrels complete the window unit. Windows of the upper floor are similar but shorter, measuring 5'-0" X 8'-6". A window in the southwest corner of the living room has a lower spandrel panel which opens on hinges and allows the window opening to convert to a door to the outside when the lower sash is raised. This is sometimes called a "jib" door. The use of double functioning features such as this was typical of Jefferson.

7. Fireplaces: Fireplace treatments are similar throughout the Pavilion although the sizes differ. The large basement fireplace, possibly originally the kitchen fireplace, displays the simplest molded wood surround and mantel. Other fireplaces have molded wood surrounds similar to the door and window surrounds, and denticulated mantels, typical of the Federal period. The mantels are similar to Plate 27, Figure C in The American Builder's Companion.¹⁴ The corner fireplace in the small northwest upstairs bedroom has had a wood stove installed during the nineteenth century and the southeast upstairs bedroom fireplace opening has been bricked over.
8. Hardware: Much of the original brass and wrought iron hardware is extant although there is evidence of replacement and/or repair in some cases. Some of the most

interesting pieces appear on the exterior
blinds.

9. Mechanical: Mechanical systems in Pavilion X
are modern.

E. Site:

1. Orientation: Pavilion X has a northwest
orientation. It is located at the end
of the East Lawn facing Pavilion IX.
2. Landscape Design: The gardens and serpentine
walls were restored by the Garden Club
of Virginia as part of a renovation of
the University grounds. Work on the
East Lawn and East Range gardens began
in 1960. Existing plantings were
incorporated into the renovation scheme.
The gardens are immaculately kept.
Some of the important specimens are:
 - A. Weeping Willow (*Salix babylonica*)
 - B. Royal Paulownia (*Paulownia tomentosa*)
 - C. Red Mulberry (*Morus rubra*)
 - D. Common Apple (*Malus pumila*)
 - E. Crepe Myrtle (*Lagerstromia indica*)
 - F. American Holly (*Ilex opaca*)
 - G. Southern Magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*)
3. Outbuildings: The only extant outbuilding
is the privy, located at the southwest
corner of the garden.

NOTES

¹For example see, Andrea Palladio, The Four Books of Architecture (Venice, 1570; rpt in English, London:Isaac Ware, 1738; rpt. with an introduction by Adolf K. Placzek, New York: Dover Publications, 1965), Book IV, Plates 12-16.

²Photographs reproduced in the Appendix* show the parapet intact ca. 1870, but gone by 1905.

³The leaky roof problems appear in the Board of Visitors Minutes as early as 1829, page 244, Vol. II.

⁴See the Board of Visitors Minutes, page 379, Vol. II.

⁵See the Board of Visitors Minutes, page 736, Vol. IV.

⁶See the Board of Visitors Minutes, page 1179, Vol. V.

⁷No exact date for the installation of these windows could be found. They may have been part of the Stanford White program of 1898-, when the campus was revamped after the fire in the Rotunda.

⁸For a concise reference to this event, see Thomas P. Abernathy, Historical Sketch of the University of Virginia (Richmond, Virginia: The Dietz Press, 1948), p. 29.

⁹This story has been relayed several places, including the Cavalier Daily articles by Kathy Cruze and Barbara Wartelle, "Genesis of the Honor System Highlights History of Pavilion X." 15 November, 1974, and Elisabeth Lasch, "Pavilion X's Static Facade Veils Rich, Eventful Past," 27 April, 1979.

NOTES (continued)

¹⁰The best discussion of the influence is William Bainter O'Neal, Jefferson's Fine Arts Library (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 1976), p. 132.

¹¹Asher Benjamin, The American Builder's Companion. Sixth Edition (Boston: R. P. & C. Williams, 1827; rpt. with an introduction by William Morgan. New York: Dover Publications, 1969), Plate 38.

¹²In 1874 the Board of Visitors allocated \$150 for draining and flooring the basement of Pavilion X; see the Board of Visitors Minutes, page 1051, Vol. IV.

¹³Benjamin, Plate 38.

¹⁴Benjamin, Plate 27, Figure C.

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PROJECT INFORMATION

This documentation was undertaken by the School of Architecture at the University of Virginia, under the direction of K. Edward Lay, Professor of Architecture. The material was prepared by D. Diana Johnson, Graduate Student in Architectural History, during the Spring/Summer Semester, 1982. The documentation was donated to the Historic American Buildings Survey. It was not prepared under HABS supervision, nor edited by members of the HABS staff.